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Mohammed Bachir

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## POROSITY IN THE SPACE OF HÖLDER-FUNCTIONS.

MOHAMMED BACHIR

ABSTRACT. Let (X, d) be a bounded metric space with a base point  $0_X$ ,  $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space and  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^{\alpha}(X, Y)$  be the space of all  $\alpha$ -Hölder-functions that vanish at  $0_X$ , equipped with its natural norm  $(0 < \alpha \leq 1)$ . Let  $0 < \alpha < \beta \leq 1$ . We prove that  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^{\beta}(X, Y)$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^{\alpha}(X, Y)$ , if (and only if)  $\inf\{d(x, x') : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$  (i.e. d is non-uniformly discrete). A more general result will be given.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The main result of this note is Theorem 1, which gives a condition for some class of subsets of Lipschitz functions to be  $\sigma$ -porous subsets. The result in the abstract, as well as all the other results of this note, are just a very immediate consequence of this main result. However, the main motivations which led to the main theorem of this note, was precisely the result mentioned in the abstract.

Given a metric space (X, d) with a distinguished point  $0_X$  (called a base point of X) and a Banach space  $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$ , we denote by  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_d, Y)$  (or by  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X, Y)$ , if no ambiguity arises) the Banach space of all Lipschitz functions from X into Y that vanish at the base point  $0_X$ , equipped with its natural norm defined by

$$||f||_L := \sup\{\frac{||f(x) - f(x')||}{d(x, x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x\}, \forall f \in \operatorname{Lip}_0(X_d, Y).$$

We denote simply  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_d)$  or  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X)$ , if  $Y = \mathbb{R}$ . The space L(X, Y) denotes the space of all linear bounded operators from X into Y. The space  $X^*$ denotes the topological dual of X. Notice that the space  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X, Y)$  can be isometrically itentified to  $L(\mathcal{F}(X), Y)$  where  $\mathcal{F}(X)$  is the free-Lipschitz space over X introduced by Godefroy-Kalton in [2]. Let us recall the definition of  $\sigma$ -porosity.

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**Definition 1.** Let (F,d) be a metric space and A be a subset of F. A set A of F is called porous if there is a  $c \in (0,1)$  so that for every  $x \in A$  there are  $(y_n) \subset F$  with  $y_n \to x$  and so that  $B(y_n, cd(y_n, x)) \cap A = \emptyset$  for every n (We denote by B(z, r) the closed ball with center z and radius r). A set A is called  $\sigma$ -porous if it can be represented as a union  $A = \bigcup_{n=0}^{+\infty} A_n$  of countably many porous sets (the porosity constant  $c_n$  may vary with n).

Every  $\sigma$ -porous set is of first Baire category. Moreover, in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , every  $\sigma$ -porous set is of Lebesque measure zero. However, there does exist a non- $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  which is of the first category and of Lebesgue measure zero (for more informations about  $\sigma$ -porosity, we refer to [7] and [5]).

**The property**  $(\mathcal{P})$ . Let (X, d) be a metric space and Y be a Banach space. Let F be a nonempty (closed) convex cone of  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X, Y)$ . We say that F satisfies property  $(\mathcal{P})$  if there exists a positive constant  $K_F > 0$  depending only on F such that:

 $(\mathcal{P}) \quad \forall (x, x') \in X \times X, \exists p \in F : \|p\|_L \le K_F \text{ and } \|p(x) - p(x')\| = d(x, x').$ 

This property is related to the Hahn-Banach theorem and norming sets.

*Examples* 1. The property  $(\mathcal{P})$  satisfied in the following cases:

(i) if X is a normed space and F contains the space  $X^* \cdot e := \{x \mapsto p(x) \cdot e : p \in X^*\}$ , where  $e \in Y$  is a fixed point such that ||e|| = 1.

(*ii*) if (X, d) is a metric space and F contains the functions  $d_z : x \mapsto d(x, z).e$ , for all  $z \in X$ , where  $e \in Y$  is a fixed point is such that ||e|| = 1.

(*iii*) In particular, the space  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X, Y)$  satisfies the property  $(\mathcal{P})$ . If moreover, X is a normed space, then L(X, Y) has the property  $(\mathcal{P})$  too.

*Proof.* (i) By the Hahn-Banach theorem, for all  $x \in X$  there exists  $x^* \in X^*$  such that  $||x^*|| = 1$  and  $x^*(x) = ||x||$ . Then, for each  $x \in X$ , we consider the continuous linear map  $p_x = x^* \cdot e : X \to Y$  defined by  $p_x(z) = x^*(z)e$  for all  $z \in X$ , and the property  $(\mathcal{P})$  is satisfied.

(*ii*) Immediat.

(iii) This part follows from (i) and (ii) respectively.

#### 2. The main result

We are going to give the proof of the main result of this note. Let (X, d) be a metric space with a base point 0 and Y be a Banach space. Let  $F \subset \text{Lip}_0(X, Y)$  and  $\phi : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}^+$  be a positive function such that  $\phi(x, x') = 0$  if and only if x = x'. For each real number s > 0, we denote:

$$\mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F) := \{ f \in F : \sup_{x,x' \in X; x \neq x'} \frac{\|f(x) - f(x')\|}{\phi(x,x')} \le s \},\$$
$$\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F) := \{ f \in F : \sup_{x,x' \in X; x \neq x'} \frac{\|f(x) - f(x')\|}{\phi(x,x')} < +\infty \}.$$

Notice that  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{N}_{\phi,k}(F)$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{\psi}(F) \subset \mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F)$  if  $\psi \leq \phi$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let F be a nonempty (closed) convex cone of  $Lip_0(X, Y)$  satisfying (P). Let  $\phi: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}^+$  be any positive function such that  $\phi(x, x') = 0$ if and only if x = x'. Suppose that  $\inf\{\frac{\phi(x,x')}{d(x,x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$ , then for every positive real number s > 0, we have that  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  is a porous subset of  $(F, \|\cdot\|_L)$ . Consequently, the following assertions are equivalent.

- (1)  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F) \neq F$ .
- (2)  $\inf\{\frac{\phi(x,x')}{d(x,x')}: x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0.$ (3)  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F)$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $(F, \|\cdot\|_L).$

*Proof.* (1)  $\implies$  (2). Suppose that  $\alpha := \inf\{\frac{\phi(x,x')}{d(x,x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} > 0$ , then  $\phi(x,x') \ge \alpha d(x,x')$  for all  $x, x' \in X$ . It follows that for every  $f \in F$ , we have that

$$\sup_{x,x'\in X; x\neq x'} \frac{\|f(x) - f(x')\|}{\phi(x,x')} \le \|f\|_L \sup_{x,x'\in X; x\neq x'} \frac{d(x,x')}{\phi(x,x')} \le \frac{\|f\|_L}{\alpha} < +\infty.$$

Thus,  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F) = F$ . Part (3)  $\Longrightarrow$  (1) is trivial. Let us prove that if  $\inf\{\frac{\phi(x,x')}{d(x,x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$ , then for every s > 0, we have that  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  is a porous subset of  $(F, \|\cdot\|_L)$ , this gives in particular (2)  $\implies$  (3). Indeed, if  $\inf\{\frac{\phi(x,x')}{d(x,x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$ , then there exists a pair of sequences  $(a_n), (b_n) \subset X$  such that  $0 < r_n := \frac{\phi(a_n, b_n)}{d(a_n, b_n)} \to 0.$ By assumption, there exists  $K_F > 0$  and a sequence  $(p_n) \subset F$  such that  $\|p_n\|_L \leq K_F$  and  $\|p_n(a_n) - p(b_n)\| = d(a_n, b_n)$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $f \in \mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$ , then we have that  $\sup_{x,x' \in X; x \neq x'} \frac{\|f(x) - f(x')\|}{\phi(x,x')} \leq s$ . It follows that

$$\frac{\|(f + \sqrt{r_n}p_n)(a_n) - (f + \sqrt{r_n}p_n)(b_n)\|}{\phi(a_n, b_n)} \geq \sqrt{r_n} \frac{\|p_n(a_n) - p_n(b_n)\|}{\phi(a_n, b_n)} - \frac{\| - (f(a_n) - f(b_n))\|}{\phi(a_n, b_n)}$$
$$\geq \sqrt{r_n} \frac{d(a_n, b_n)}{\phi(a_n, b_n)} - \sup_{x, x' \in X; x \neq x'} \frac{\|f(x) - f(x')\|}{\phi(x, x')}$$
$$\geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{r_n}} - s$$

Since,  $r_n \to 0$ , when  $n \to +\infty$ , there exists a subsequence  $(r_{n_m})$  such that

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{n_m}}} > 4s, \ \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

We set  $f_m = f + \sqrt{r_{n_m}} p_{n_m} \in F$ , for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have that

$$||f_m - f||_L = \sqrt{r_{n_m}} ||p_{n_m}||_L \le K_F \sqrt{r_{n_m}} \to 0$$
 when  $m \to +\infty$ .

Let us prove that  $B(f_m, \frac{1}{2K_F} || f_m - f ||_L) \subset F \setminus \mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Indeed, let  $g \in B(f_m, \frac{1}{2} || f_m - f ||_L)$ , then we have using the above informations that

$$\frac{\|g(a_{n_m}) - g(b_{n_m})\|}{\phi(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})} \geq \frac{\|f_m(a_{n_m}) - f_m(b_{n_m})\|}{\phi(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})} - \frac{\|(f_m - g)(a_{n_m}) - (f_m - g)(b_{n_m})\|}{\phi(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})} \\
\geq \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{n_m}}} - s\right) - \|f_m - g\|_L \frac{d(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})}{\phi(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})} \\
\geq \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{n_m}}} - s\right) - \frac{1}{2K_F} \|f_m - f\|_L \frac{d(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})}{\phi(a_{n_m}, b_{n_m})} \\
\geq \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{r_{n_m}}} - s\right) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{r_{n_m}} \frac{1}{r_{n_m}} \\
= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{r_{n_m}}} - s \\
> s.$$

Thus, we have that  $g \in F \setminus \mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  and so that  $B(f_m, \frac{1}{2} \| f_m - f \|_L) \subset F \setminus \mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi,s}(F)$  is porous in F (with  $c = \frac{1}{2K_F}$ ). It follows that  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(F) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{N}_{\phi,k}(F)$  is  $\sigma$ -porous in  $(F, \|\cdot\|_L)$ .  $\Box$ 

2.1. **Immediate consequences.** We deduce immediately the result mentioned in the abstract.

**Corollary 1.** Let  $X_1 := (X, d_1)$  and  $X_2 := (X, d_2)$  be a set equipped with two metrics such that  $d_1 \leq d_2$  and let  $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space. Then,  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_1, Y)$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_2, Y)$  if (and only if)  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are not equivalent, if and only if  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_1, Y) \neq \operatorname{Lip}_0(X_2, Y)$ .

*Proof.* We use Theorem 1 and part (*iii*) of Exemple 1 observing the following equality  $\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_1, Y) = \mathcal{N}_{d_1}(\operatorname{Lip}_0(X_2, Y))$ .

Notice that if  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  and d is a metric, so is  $d^{\alpha}$ , hence the above corollay applies to the space of  $\alpha$ -Hölder-functions that vanish at  $0_X$  which is  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^{\alpha}(X,Y) := \operatorname{Lip}_0(X_{d^{\alpha}},Y)$ . Notice also that if  $0 < \alpha < \beta \leq 1$  and d is bounded, then  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^{\beta}(X,Y) \subset \operatorname{Lip}_0^{\alpha}(X,Y)$ . The metrics  $d^{\alpha}$  and  $d^{\beta}$  are not equivalent if and only if,  $\inf\{\frac{d^{\beta}(x,x')}{d^{\alpha}(x,x')} : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$ , if and only if  $\inf\{d(x,x') : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$  (since  $\beta > \alpha$ ). Thus, we get the result of the abstract.

**Corollary 2.** Let (X, d) be a bounded metric space with a base point  $0_X$ ,  $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space and  $0 < \alpha < \beta \leq 1$ . Then,  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^\beta(X, Y)$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $\operatorname{Lip}_0^\alpha(X, Y)$ , if and only if  $\inf\{d(x, x') : x, x' \in X; x \neq x'\} = 0$ .

For the linear case, we have the following results.

**Corollary 3.** Let  $X_1 := (X, \|\cdot\|_1)$  and  $X_2 := (X, \|\cdot\|_2)$  be a linear space equipped with two norms such that  $\|\cdot\|_1 \leq \|\cdot\|_2$  and let  $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space. Then,  $L(X_1, Y)$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $L(X_2, Y)$  if and only if  $\|\cdot\|_1$  and  $\|\cdot\|_2$  are not equivalent if and only if  $L(X_1, Y) \neq L(X_2, Y)$ .

*Proof.* We use Theorem 1 and part (*iii*) of Exemple 1 after observing that  $L(X_1, Y) = \mathcal{N}_{\|\cdot\|_1}(L(X_2, Y)).$ 

Example 1. Let  $i: (l^1(\mathbb{N}), \|\cdot\|_1) \to (l^1(\mathbb{N}), \|\cdot\|_\infty)$  be the continuous identity map. Then the image of the adjoint  $i^*$  of i is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $(l^\infty(\mathbb{N}), \|\cdot\|_\infty)$ .

We give in the following corollary a connexion between the surjectivity of the adjoint  $T^*$  of a one-to-one bounded linear operator T and the non- $\sigma$ -porosity of its image (see in this sprit, the open mapping theorem in [6, Theorem 2.11]).

**Proposition 1.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|_X)$  and  $(Z, \|\cdot\|_Z)$  be Banach spaces. Let  $T : X \to Z$  be a one-to-one bounded linear operator and  $T^*$  its adjoint. Then, the following assertions are equivalent.

(i)  $T^*(Z^*)$  is not contained in a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ .

- (ii) There exists  $\alpha > 0$  such that  $\alpha \|x\|_X \le \|T(x)\|_Z$  for all  $x \in X$ .
- $(iii) \ T^* \ is \ onto.$

*Proof.* Since  $T : X \to Z$  is a one-to-one bounded linear operator, then, the following map define another norm on X:

$$||x|| := \frac{||T(x)||_Z}{||T||} \le ||x||_X, \quad \forall x \in X.$$

Let us denote  $X_1 := (X, \|\cdot\|)$ . By Corollary 3, applied with  $Y = \mathbb{R}$ , we have that  $X_1^*$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$  if and only if  $\|\cdot\|$  and  $\|\cdot\|_X$  are not equivalente. Thus, if (ii) is not satisfied (that is,  $\|\cdot\|$  and  $\|\cdot\|_X$  are not equivalente) then, since  $T^*(Z^*) \subset X_1^*$  we get that  $T^*(Z^*)$  is contained in a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ . Hence,  $(i) \Longrightarrow (ii)$  is proved. Now, suppose that (ii) holds, it follows that T(X) is closed in Y. Let  $x^* \in X^*$  and define  $\phi$  on T(X) by  $\phi(T(x)) := x^*(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Clearly  $\phi$  is well defined (since T is one-to-one) and linear continuous on T(X). Thus,  $\phi$  extends to a linear continuous functional  $y^* \in Y^*$  and we have  $T^*(y^*) = y^* \circ T = x^*$ . Hence,  $T^*$  is onto and  $(ii) \Longrightarrow (ii)$  is proved. Part  $(iii) \Longrightarrow (i)$ , is trivial.

Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  be a normed space, and let S be a nonempty subset of the dual space  $X^*$ . The set S is called separating if:  $x^*(x) = 0$  for all  $x^* \in S$  implies that x = 0. It is called norming if the functional

$$N_S(x) = \sup_{x^* \in S; x^* \neq 0} \frac{|x^*(x)|}{\|x^*\|},$$

is an equivalent norm on X (see [2] for the use of this notion).

**Proposition 2.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  be a normed space. Every separating subset  $S \subset X^*$  which is not contained in a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ , is norming.

*Proof.* It is clear that  $N(x) \leq ||x||$  for all  $x \in X$ . On the other hand, we have that

$$S \subset \mathcal{N}_{N_S}(X) := \{ x^* \in X^* : \sup_{N_S(x)=1} |x^*(x)| < +\infty \}.$$

Since S is not contained in a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ , then  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi}(X)$  must be non- $\sigma$ -porous, which implies from Theorem 1 that  $\inf_{\|x\|=1} N_S(x) > 0$ . Hence  $N_S$  is equivalent to  $\|\cdot\|$ .

2.2. Application to the barrier cone and polar of sets. Let X be a normed space and K be a nonempty subset of X. The barrier cone of K is the subset B(K) of the topological dual  $X^*$  defined by

$$B(K) = \{x^* \in X^* : \sup_{x \in K} x^*(x) < +\infty\}.$$

The polar set of K is a subset of the barrier cone of K defined as follows:

$$K^{\circ} = \{ x^* \in X^* : \sup_{x \in K} x^*(x) \le 1 \}.$$

The study of barrier cones has interested several authors. It is shown in [4, Theorem 3.1.1] that for a closed convex subset K of X, we have that  $B(K) = X^*$  if and only if K is bounded, on the other hand, B(K) is dense in  $X^*$  if and only if K does not contain any halfline. In general, we know that  $\overline{B(K)} \neq X^*$  (see example in [1]). A study of the closure of the barrier of a closed convex set is given in [1]. As an immediat consequence of main theorem, we obtain bellow that the barrier cone of some general class of unbounded subsets is a  $\sigma$ -pourous subset of the dual  $X^*$ . This shows that in general, the barrier cone may be a "very small" subset of  $X^*$ .

We define the classe  $\Phi(X)$  of positive functions on X (not necessarily continuous) as follows:  $\phi \in \Phi(X)$  if and only if,  $\phi : X \to \mathbb{R}^+$  and satisfies

(i)  $\phi(\lambda x) = |\lambda|\phi(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ 

(*ii*)  $\phi(x) = 0$  if and only if x = 0

For every  $\phi \in \Phi(X)$ , we denote  $S_{\phi} := \{x \in X : \phi(x) = 1\}$  and  $C_{\phi} := \{x \in X : \phi(x) \leq 1\}$ . Notice, that in general  $C_{\phi}$  is not a convex set (resp. not closed), if we do not suppose that  $\phi$  is a convex function (resp. a continuous function). It is easy to see that

(1) 
$$C_{\phi}$$
 is bounded  $\iff S_{\phi}$  is bounded  $\iff \inf_{x \in X: ||x|| = 1} \phi(x) > 0.$ 

Thanks to the symmetry of  $\phi \in \Phi(X)$  and the fact that  $B(C_{\phi}) = B(S_{\phi})$ , we have using the notation of Theorem 1, that

(2) 
$$B(C_{\phi}) = \mathcal{N}_{\phi}(X^*)$$

The polar of  $S_{\phi}$  coincides with  $\mathcal{N}_{\phi,1}(X^*)$  and we have

(3) 
$$C^{\circ}_{\phi} \subset S^{\circ}_{\phi} = \mathcal{N}_{\phi,1}(X^*).$$

Now, using (1), (2) and (3) and applying Theorem 1 to the spaces  $F = X^*$ and  $Y = \mathbb{R}$  (using Exemple 1), we get directly the following informations about the size of the barrier cone, as well as the polar of a set of the form  $C_{\phi}$ in the dual space.

**Corollary 4.** Let X be a normed space and  $\phi \in \Phi(X)$ . If  $C_{\phi}$  is not bounded in X, then the polar  $C_{\phi}^{\circ}$  is contained in a porous subset of  $X^*$ . Moreover, the followin assertions are equivalent.

(i)  $B(C_{\phi}) \neq X^*$ .

(ii)  $C_{\phi}$  is not bounded in X.

(iii)  $B(C_{\phi})$  is a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ .

We deduce that, if K is any nonempty subset of X such that  $S_{\phi} \subset K$ , for some  $\phi \in \Phi(X)$  with  $S_{\phi}$  not bounded, then the polar  $K^{\circ}$  is contained in a porous subset of  $X^*$  and the barrier cone B(K) is contained in a  $\sigma$ -porous subset of  $X^*$ . Notice that if K is a closed absorbing disk in X, does not contain a non-trivial vector subspace and is a neighborhood of the origin in X, then the Minkowski functional  $\phi_K$  of K is a continuous norm (with respect to the norm  $\|\cdot\|$ , but not equivalent to it, if K is not bounded) hence  $\phi_K \in \Phi(X)$ and we have that  $K = C_{\phi_K}$ .

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Laboratoire SAMM 4543, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Centre P.M.F. 90 rue Tolbiac, 75634 Paris cedex 13, France

Email address: Mohammed.Bachir@univ-paris1.fr